

CARR-1094

Gaither M. E. Mission
7701 Gaither Road

1913

The Gaither M. E. Church began in 1911 as a mission Sunday School. John E. Gaither donated one acre of land for the building, and ground was broken on 20 April 1913. The church was finally dedicated on 12 October 1913. The final cost of the building was about \$2700. While Gaither Church is larger than most churches in small towns, being a full two stories, it retains very traditional designs, including two front doors.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Gaither M. E. Mission

and/or common Gaither U. M. Church

2. Location

street & number 7701 Gaither Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Sykesville ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Gaither Methodist Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Gaither state and zip code Maryland 21735

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber

street & number 55 North Court Street folio

city, town Westminster state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1094

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary: Gaither M. E. Church Mission is located at 7701 Gaither Road, on the east side of the road. It is approximately 1¼ miles southwest of Sykesville in southeastern Carroll County. The church has a rubble stone foundation, 7-1 common bond brick walls, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. It is two stories, and two bays by four bays. The first story of the west elevation has two pair of double doors. The gable end has green-stained wood shingles. On the west end, at the ridge, is a bell tower with four square, wood corner posts. The first story of the north elevation has four segmentally-arched 6/6 sash. The second story has four stained-glass lancets. The south elevation is identical. In the southwest corner of the foundation is a limestone block carved with "Gaither M. E. Mission 1913." The south bay door of the west elevation opens into a vestibule with a wide staircase running along the west wall, up to the sanctuary on the second floor. The sanctuary ceiling has a gable pitch. At the center of the east end is a raised dais with an altar rail on three sides. There is a second raised podium with an oak pulpit. On the west wall the south bay has a four-panel door that leads to a small room over the main vestibule below.

Gaither M. E. Mission is located at 7701 Gaither Road on the east side of the road. It is approximately 1¼ miles southwest of Sykesville in southeastern Carroll County. The church faces west. The tree-studded lot slopes slightly to the west, and there is a steep hill off to the east just behind the church. The church has a rubble stone foundation, 7-1 common bond brick walls, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. It is two stories, and two bays by four bays. The first story of the west elevation has two pair of double doors. Each door has four panels with ogee panel moulds and is set in a segmentally-arched, bullnose-moulded frame, with a two-light transom. The doors have wood sills. In front of each door is three concrete steps, with concrete cheek walls and panelled concrete newels. The second story has two stained-glass lancet windows in bullnose frames. The windows are not right above the first story doors, but are set in toward the center more. There is an ogee-moulded cornice at the eaves level. The gable end has green-stained wood shingles, with three rows that are saw-tooth cut. There is also a 2/2 lancet with clear, pebble-finish glass. The raking eaves have a narrow, beaded-edge board soffit. On the west end, at the ridge, is a bell tower with four square, wood corner posts and triangular topped openings. The tower is sided with narrow, beaded-edge vertical boards, and has a hip roof.

The first story of the north elevation has four segmentally-arched 6/6 sash with pebble-finish clear glass, wood sills, and bullnose frames. The south elevation is identical, except that the second story west bay has a 9/9 lancet with pebble-finish clear glass. In the southwest corner of the foundation is a limestone block carved with

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Description (continued)

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"Gaither M. E. Mission 1913." The east elevation has a stuccoed, shed-roof addition on the first story. The second story has two stained-glass lancet windows. The gable end matches that on the west, but it has a stained-glass lancet. There is a brick chimney centered on the ridge, just east of the bell tower.

The south bay door of the west elevation opens into a vestibule with a wide staircase running along the west wall, up to the sanctuary on the second floor. The east wall of the vestibule has four-panel double doors that lead into a large social hall. There are steel columns running down the center of this hall, from east to west. The pine floor also runs east-west. The east end has a raised dais with a pulpit. The pulpit has flat, sunk panels with no panel moulds, and is grained. There is one panel on each side and two on the front, and the top of the pulpit is marble. The north bay exterior door on the west elevation also opens into a vestibule, with double doors to the east into the social hall, and a door on the south into a closet under the stairs.

All the door surrounds have a pulvinated frieze with an ogee mould on each side. The windows have flat surrounds. Under the sill is trim with a reveal at the top and a moulding below that could perhaps best be described as a flattened Greek torus. The baseboard is topped with an ogee moulding.

The sanctuary in the second story has carpet on the floors and plaster walls. The ceiling has a gable pitch, with plaster, and has three Gothic Revival lanterns hanging from the ridge. There is an interior chimney stack centered on the west wall. The pews are new, with a raised-panel Gothic window motif and foliate carving on the ends. They are set in two columns, with a center aisle and two side aisles. The north and south elevation windows are each in four parts, and the bottom and top-center sections pivot open. The windows have a blue-green outer margin and an amber field. At the top is a four-leaf clover with a red center. In the top-center is a blue medallion with a shield and a painted symbol inside it. At the bottom is a memorial tablet with a lavender field. The end bay windows have a wide, dark blue band around the tablet, while the center bays have a wide brown band.

The two lower windows on the east elevation have a green margin, with an amber column inside, on each side. There are wine and blue vertical stripes, and a shield with a painted symbol in it in the top center. At the top is a stylized floral motif. The memorial arch at the bottom has a triple arch with a blue-purple field and a blue banner across the front with lettering. The spandrels have brown glass with red jewels. The lancet window at the peak has the figure of Christ, in a purple robe, with a halo, kneeling and looking heavenward. The clouds are parted and a beam of light is falling

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Description (continued)

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on Him. In the margins of the window are painted floral and foliate details. The windows on the west match the bays of the north and south.

At the center of the east end is a raised dais with an altar rail on three sides. The rail is oak, with a dark stain. It has turned balusters, and on each end a square, panelled newel with a ball on top. There is a second raised podium with an oak pulpit that has one flat, sunk panel on each side. Behind the pulpit are three Craftsman-influenced oak chairs with red leather cushions. On the west wall the south bay has a four-panel door that leads to a small room over the main vestibule below.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1913

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary: The Gaither M. E. Church began in 1911 as a mission Sunday School. John E. Gaither donated one acre of land for the building, and ground was broken on 20 April 1913. The church was finally dedicated on 12 October 1913. The final cost of the building was about \$2700. While Gaither Church is larger than most churches in small towns, being a full two stories, it retains very traditional designs, including two front doors.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Religion

Resource Types: Church, Rural vernacular

The Gaither M. E. Church began in 1911 as a mission Sunday School. John E. Gaither donated one acre of land for the building, and ground was broken on 20 April 1913. By September of that year church suppers were being held in the basement, with proceeds going to furnishing the new church. The church was finally dedicated on 12 October 1913. "It is a two-story structure, is built of brick and finished in hardwood. A few minor additions to its equipment will complete it in every way." The final cost of the building was about \$2700, exclusive of donated land, labor, and material. Reverend Deale of St. Paul's M. E. Church in Sykesville was to be the preacher, and services were to be held every Sunday. A 1963 photo shows that the two front windows, and probably all the others, still had their original 9/9 lancet windows, and not the present stained glass.

While Gaither Church is larger than most churches in small towns, being a full two stories, it retains very traditional designs, including two front doors and no attached projecting bell tower. Long before its construction, churches in larger towns in Carroll County were being built on national models. Most of these buildings were for denominations other than the Methodists, which seem to have clung to traditional forms

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Significance (continued)

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longer. Even the stained glass windows, which were installed some time after 1963, look like many found in local churches installed fifty years earlier. The wood shingles in the gable ends are one of the few concessions to national trends in architecture. This church still retains a high degree of historical integrity.

KS/lh:7-26-93:CARR1094.sig

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Democratic Advocate, 25 April 1913, p.8; 3 October 1913, p. 8; 17 October 1913, p. 5
Sykesville Herald, 18 September 1913, p. 5; 16 October 1913, p. 1; 19 September 1963, p.8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 a.

Quadrangle name Sykesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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E

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Planning Department

date July 28, 1993

street & number 225 North Center Street

telephone (410) 857-2145

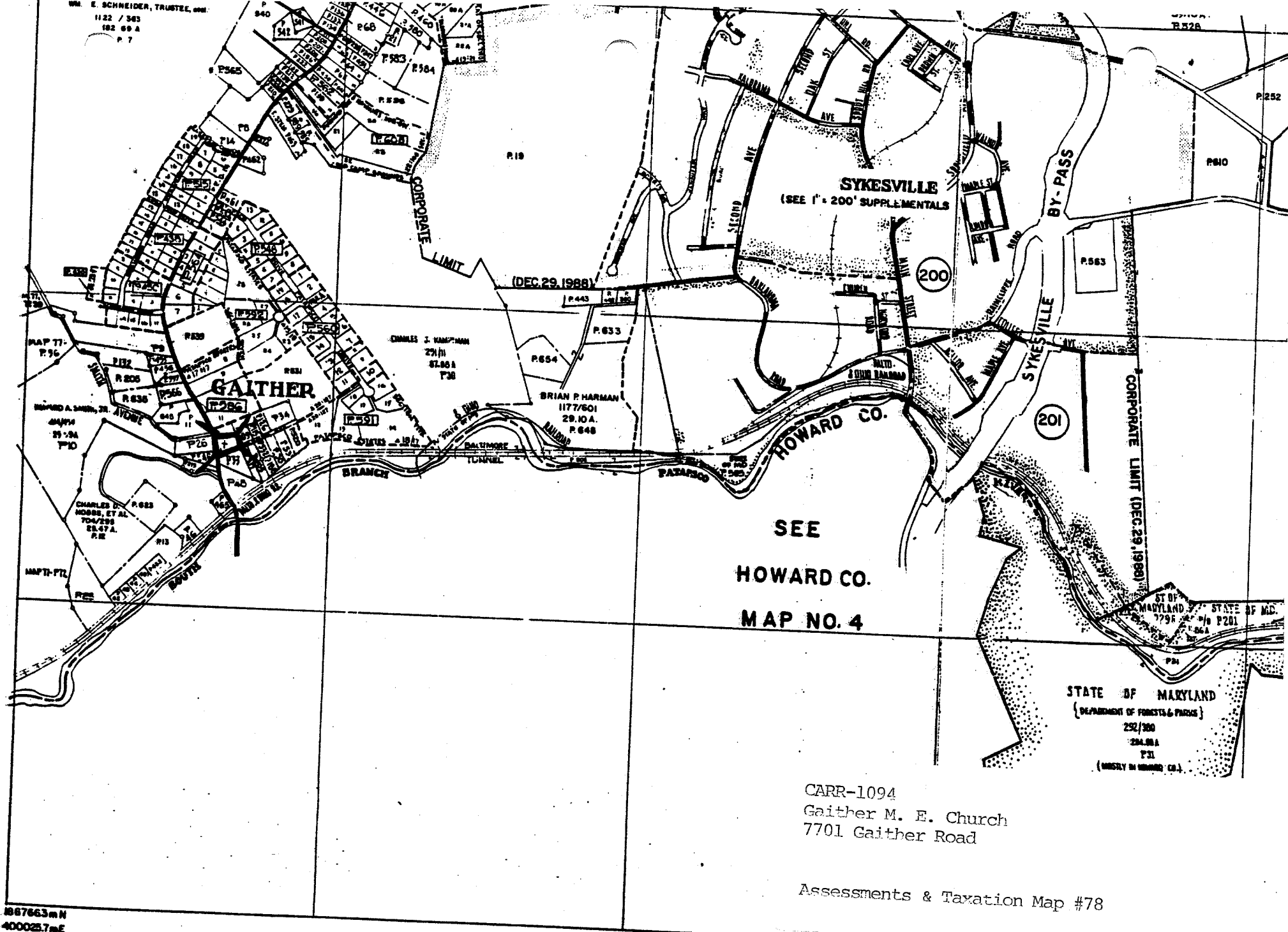
city or town Westminster

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



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DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION PROPERTY MAP DIVISION				PROPERTY LINE SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY	
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DATE				SCALE: 1" = 600'	
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5562 / NE
(WINFIELD)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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WESTMINSTER 16 MI.
ELDERSBURG 2.5 MI.

331 57'30"

4360000m N.

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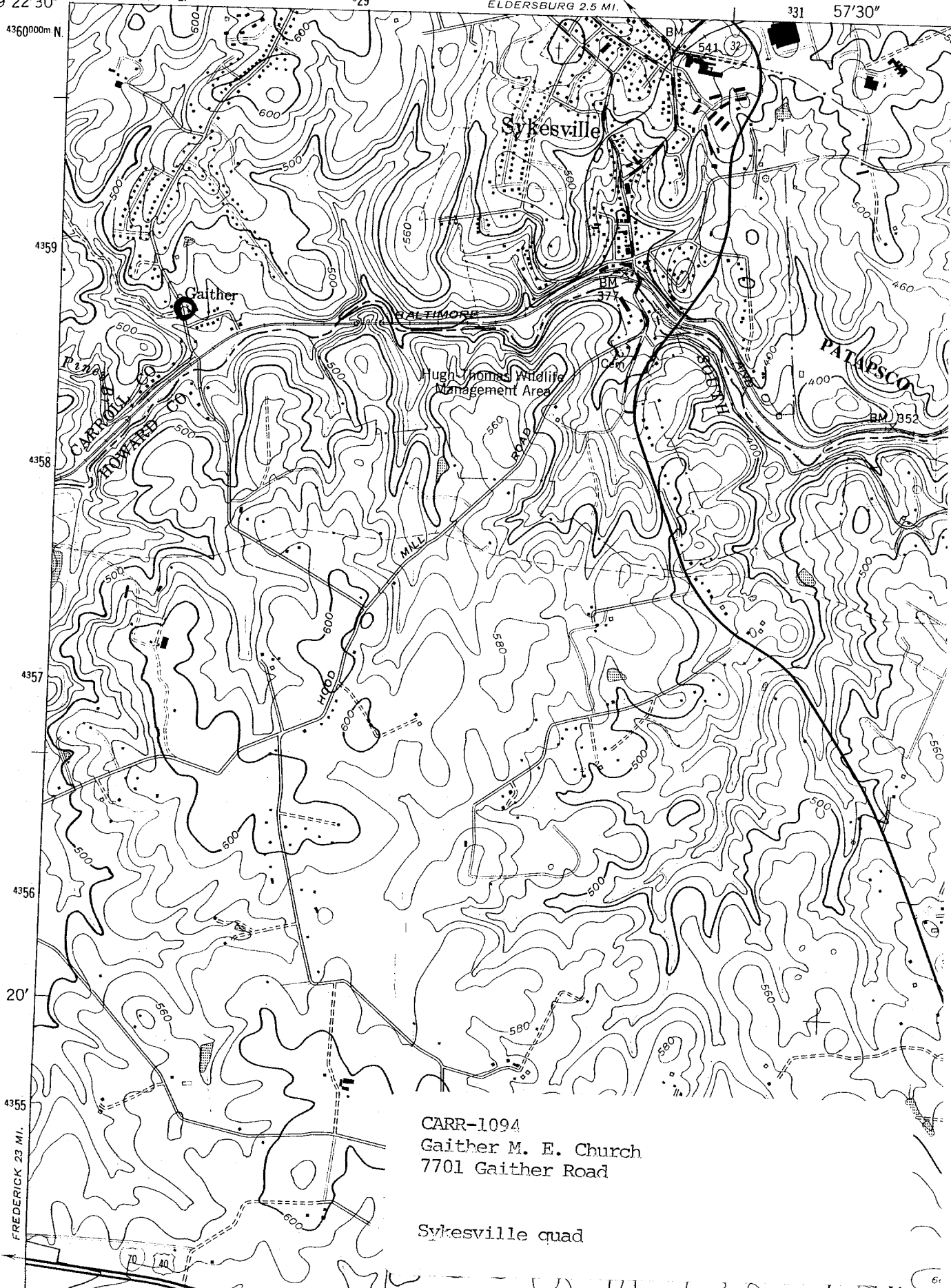
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FREDERICK 23 MI.



CARR-1094
Gaither M. E. Church
7701 Gaither Road

Sykesville quad



Gaither M.E. Church

7701 Gaither Road

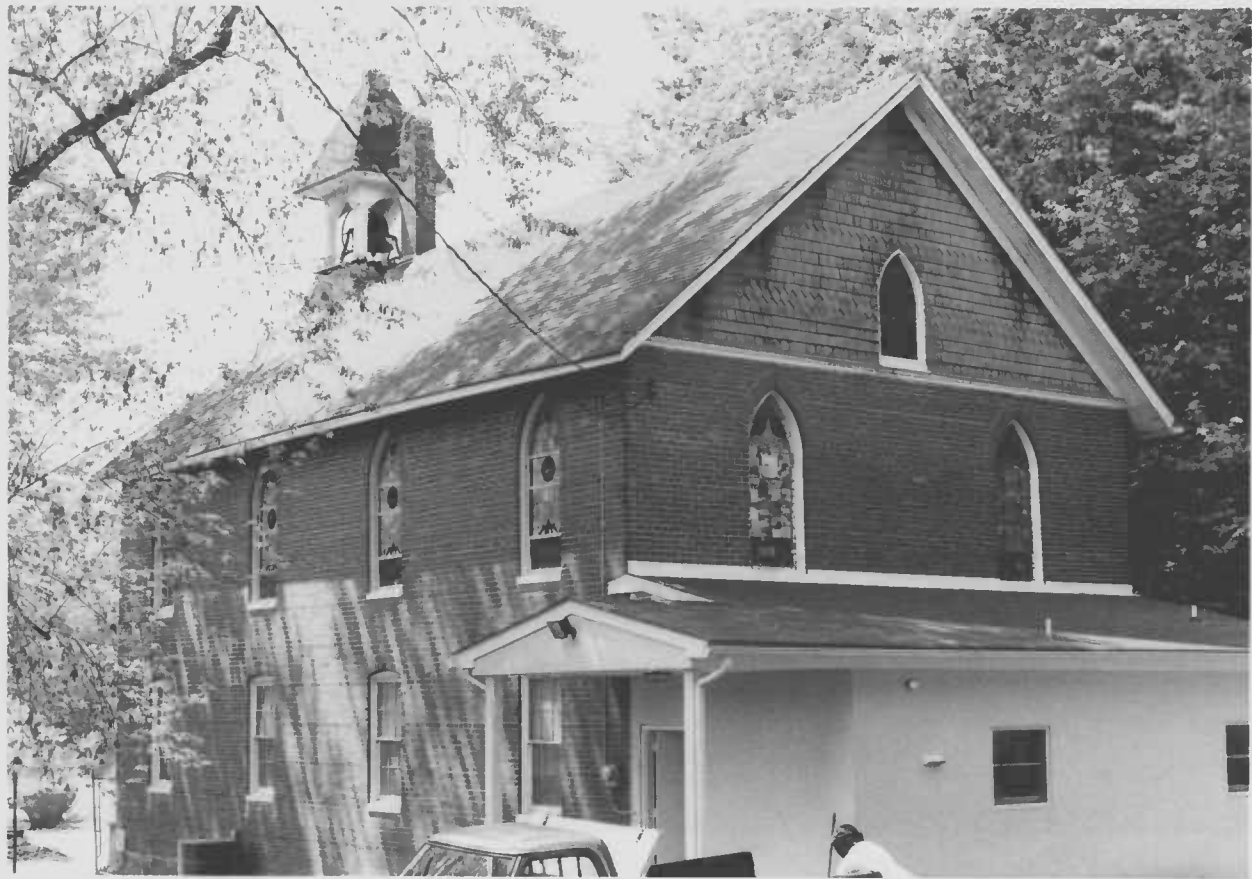
Carroll County, Maryland

Phot: Kenneth M. Stolt

Date: May 1993

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
west elevation

1/3



Gaither m.e. Church

7701 Gaither Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Phot: Kenneth M. Short

Date: May 1983

Neg. Loc. : Maryland Historical Trust

South : east elevations

2/3



Gaither m.e. Church

7701 Gaither Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth m. Short

Date: May 1993

neg loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

interior-east + south elevations

3/3